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Planning New Strategy

The Castro victory in the abortive Cuban invasion has caused this country to become the target of endless barrages of Communist abuse. And the United States has lost some "face" in the eyes of other than the Reds by having become involved on the sidelines in the attempt to unthroned the Havana dictator.

The question now arises: What will the United States do about Cuba? No one seems to know the answer yet, but President Kennedy's first move is to preserve political unity for whatever his next step will be.

The U.S. chief executive has assigned the top agencies of his administration the job of figuring out new strategy for destroying Castroism in Cuba and removing the Communist menace from our doorstep.

With Russian dictator Nikita Khrushchev threatening all kinds of dire consequences if the United States intervenes in Cuba, Mr. Kennedy has a problem on his hands. It matters not a jot or tittle to the Red propagandists that the U.S. has disavowed any such intention. The Kremlin boss was told in no uncertain terms by Mr. Kennedy that the U.S. will brook no interference by the U.S.S.R. in western hemisphere affairs.

Now Mr. Kennedy has taken on himself the task of winning from Republican leaders a moratorium on domestic political argument which could wreck the new attempt before it is launched. As of today, high officials in Washington privately concede that neither the President nor anyone else in the nation's capital knows what the next move against Cuba's pro-Communist prime minister will be.

Direct military action is ruled out unless Mr. Castro is foolhardy enough to move against the naval base at Guantanamo Bay, but consideration has been given to imposition of inter-American sanctions, which U.S. officials very much desire.

Vice President Johnson recently said that there will be plenty of foreign policy to review during the next 12 or 18 months. "The Soviet Union," he stated, "is going places in many ways."

While the administration is bending every effort to come up with the answer to what to do about Castroism, President Kennedy has set up a super-agency to examine the workings of the country's vital intelligence activities, which came in for criticism because of the Cuban invasion fiasco.

The chief executive's move drew applause on Capitol Hill but it did not head off a move to create a joint congressional committee to oversee the operations of the Central Intelligence Agency. Hearings will be held soon on a resolution to create a Senate-House watchdog committee.